

People, Policies & Possibilities:

Poverty on Our Campuses



Anoka-Ramsey Community College Faculty Development

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Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system is an Equal Opportunity employer and educator.



Today's Outcomes

- 1) Assess Current Reality & Perceptions
- 2) Gather & Interpret Data for Planning
- 3) Identify Priorities & Develop Action Plan



Poverty Awareness Quiz

How much does a person living in poverty earn?

1 Person

\$11,770 annual

\$980.83 monthly

\$5.66 per hour

Family of 3

\$20,090 annual

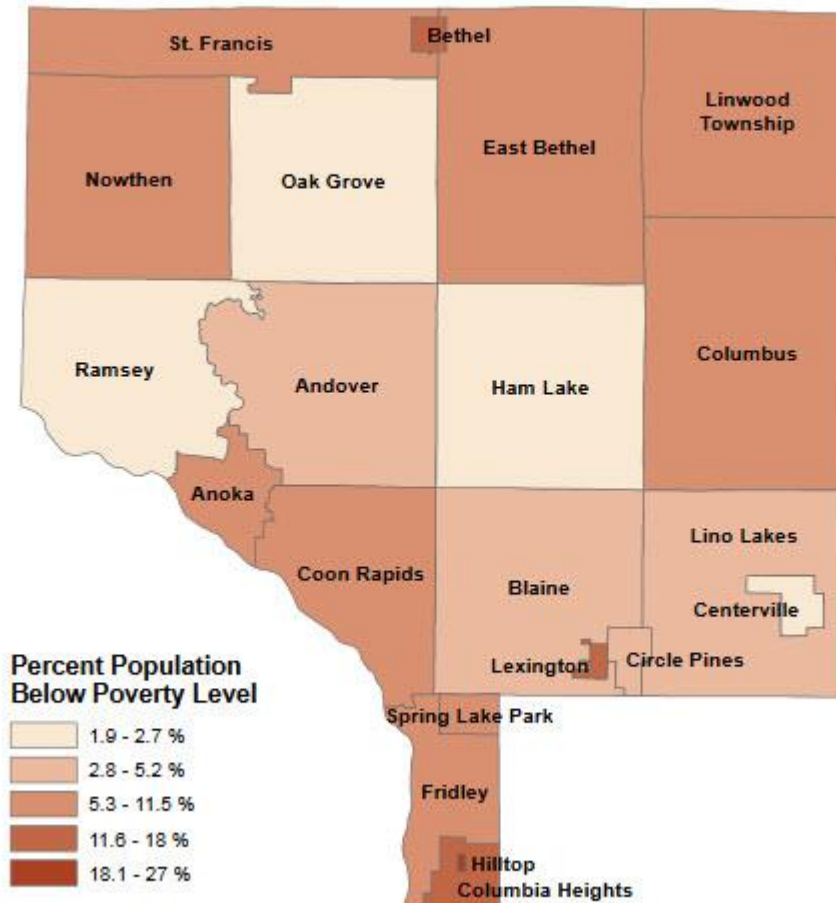
\$1,649 monthly

\$9.66 per hour



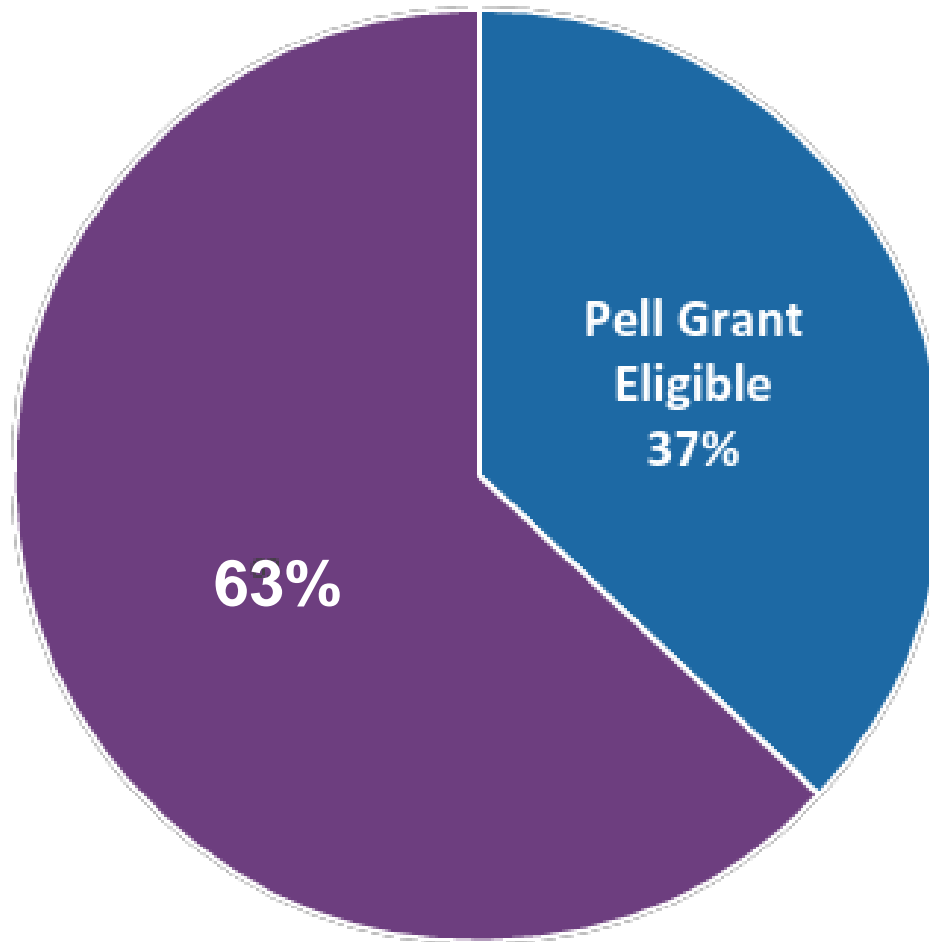
Poverty in Anoka County

Percent of Population Below 100% Poverty Level
Anoka County, 2008-2012 ACS 5-Year Estimate



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2008-2012). American Community Survey.

Poverty on Minnesota State Campuses

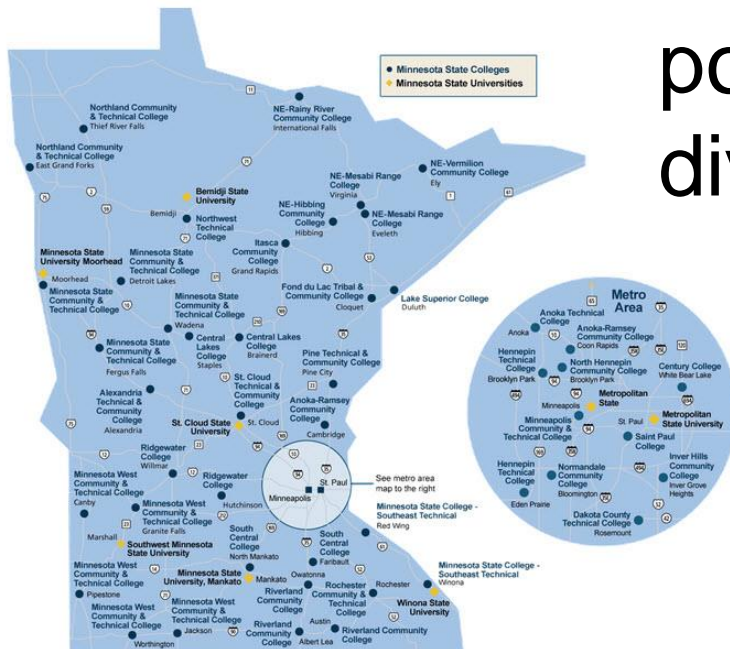


Source: <http://mnsu.edu/board/materials/2014/march19/joint-powerpoint.pdf>

Current Reality

How does poverty in your region effect your role on campus?

In what ways is addressing poverty different than other diversity and inclusion issues?



*The University of Minnesota and private colleges and universities do not belong to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system



Turn and TALK

Perceptions



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"Which is the bigger cause of poverty today: that **people are not doing enough to help themselves** out of poverty, or that **circumstances beyond their control** cause them to be poor?"

Source: National Public Radio, the Kaiser Family Foundation, and Harvard University's Kennedy School



Only Way Out of Poverty Is ...



Poverty Teaches ...

Source: See *Poverty ... Be the Difference* presentation, Dr. Donna Beegle

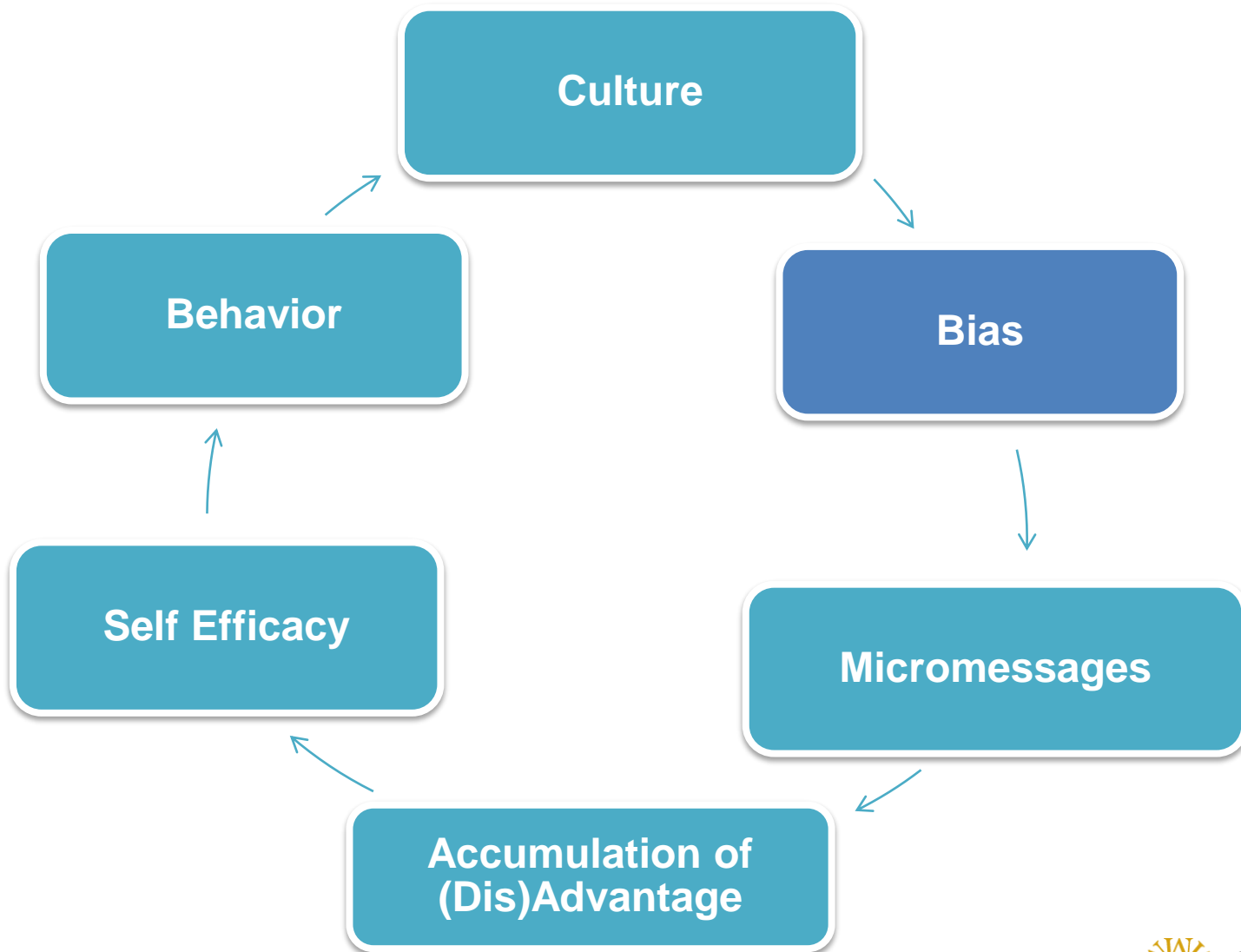
Attitude & Grit

- **Courage** (managing fear of failure)
- **Conscientiousness**
(achievement oriented vs. dependable)
- **Follow Through** (endurance)
- **Resilience** (optimism, confidence, creativity)
- **Excellence vs. Perfection** (striving attitude)

Grit Scale: <http://angeladuckworth.com/grit-scale/>



Perceptions





Poverty Teaches ...

1) Talk about situation in which **you felt you could not understand a student or family member's behavior** or get through to him/her.

2) Talk about situation from the **family's perspective.**



Poverty Competency



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“Poverty competency is having comprehensive **understanding of poverty and the skills** to effectively eradicate its impacts on learning. It is knowing the **history and structural causes** of poverty to ensure that you **operate on facts, not stereotypes**. ... It is **fostering a climate where everyone belongs**, has knowledge, and has opportunities to shine.”

~ Dr. Donna Beegle

Perceptions

- What are some perspectives about poverty held by individuals within your organization?
- What level of commitment currently exists in your organization to make a change?



Outcomes

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- 2) Gather & Interpret Data for Planning**
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Gather & Interpret Data for Planning

The Mono-Economic Experience

A Tale of Two Students

First Generation Student

- Uncertainty of process and support
- Less family awareness of nuances of processes; Less confident to ask for help
- College as means to earning a living
- Interdependence and relationships important in learning.

Continuing Generation Student

- Expectation and support to attend college
- More family aware of process and more likely to advocate if needed
- A liberal education is valued and goal of college
- Independence and self discovering drives learning

Gather & Interpret Data for Planning

Think of a policy or situation that campus administration could approach differently to reduce barriers for students battling poverty.



Gather & Interpret Data for Planning

Encouraging Student Voices ~ Mentoring



Example of Self Advocacy

MY NAME IS NOT *"THOSE PEOPLE"*

My name is not "Those People."

I am a loving woman, a mother in pain, giving birth where my babies have the same chance to thrive.

My name is not "Inadequate."

I did not make my husband leave us-he chose to and chooses not to pay child support.

Truth is though, there isn't a job base for all fathers to support their families.

While society turns its head, my children pay the price.

My name is not "Problem and Case to Be Managed."

I am a capable human being and citizen, not a client.

The social service system can never replace the care and concern of loving Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles,



By Julia K. Dinsmore



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Gather & Interpret Data for Planning

Questions for Planning

Today's Outcomes

- Assess Current Reality & Perceptions
- Gather & Interpret Data for Planning
- **Identify Priorities & Develop Action Plan**



Identify Priorities & Develop Action Plan

Assessing Organizational Readiness



Identify Priorities & Develop Action Plan

What actions is your office
and/or your campus taking
to address poverty?

Student Resiliency & Retention

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